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Contributions—Length of Articles: Extra Costs.—Original articles should not exceed three and one-half pages in length. Authors who wish articles of greater length printed must pay extra costs involved. Illustrations in excess of amount allowed by the Council are also extra.

Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

DISCIPLINARY CODES OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES

Medical Society Membership as a Vested Right.—It has taken medical societies a long time to learn the important fact that, once a physician is admitted to membership in a county medical society, he becomes possessed of rights and privileges that can be taken from him only if charges are properly filed against him, and even then, only after a fair trial, during which all his legal and other rights have been meticulously safeguarded. If such procedures were lax and these fundamental rules were not observed, and if, subsequently, disciplinary action, in the form of censure, suspension or expulsion was carried out, then such a member would have the right to turn to the civil courts and there give a society, its officers and members an unhappy and, perhaps, rather an expensive experience.

* * *

Disciplinary Code of the California Medical Association.—County medical associations in California, and in other states, despite the belief of their officers that they were proceeding properly, have had, in a number of instances, just such unpleasant subsequent awakenings; and that is why a new disciplinary code of the California Medical Association (outlined in its by-laws, under Chapter II—Membership) was adopted several years ago. Great as was the improvement so effected, later experiences have indicated that even these new rules could be clarified.

* * *

"Disciplinary Procedure" Recently Adopted by the Los Angeles County Medical Association.—Attention having been called thereto by the chairman of one of its committees, Dr. Lowell S. Goin, the Council of the Los Angeles County Medical Association instructed his committee to outline a "Procedure in Disciplinary Actions," to be used in the future as its sole guide. The committee's report, as adopted by the Los Angeles Council on February 7, 1938, appears below, and its perusal and consideration are recommended to all component county units of the California Medical Association.

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.